

### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this preliminary amendment prior to examination. Claims 1-17 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-17 have been amended and are pending for examination. An abstract has been added to the specification. No new matter has been added.

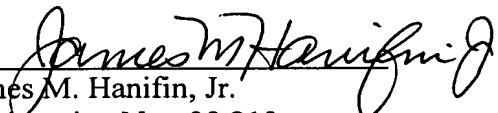
### CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: August 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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